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**U.S. Representative**

***John Spratt***

South Carolina ■ 5th District

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## **News Release**

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# **U.S. House Recommends Clearing Admiral Kimmel and General Short**

**WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives today passed and sent to the Senate a bill that could exonerate Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Major General Walter C. Short, two American military commanders accused of dereliction of duty in the bombing of Pearl Harbor.**

The late Admiral Kimmel was the grandfather of Manning M. Kimmel IV, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, a Managing Partner of Our Three Sons Broadcasting, parent company of WRHI-AM and WRHM-FM. For years, Manning Kimmel has worked to clear his grandfather's name, and in 1995, he pleaded the Admiral's case in hearings before the U.S. Senate.

U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC), a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, introduced the bill in the House along with Reps. Floyd Spence (R-SC) and Ike Skelton (D-MO), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee.

The legislation, part of the Defense Authorization Act, recommends that the President posthumously restore a four star rank to Admiral Kimmel, who was Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet and Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the time of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It recommends that the President posthumously restore a three star rank to General Short, who was Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department of the Army on December 7, 1941.

“Ultimately, it is the President who must make the decision,” said Spratt. “But passage of this bill today is significant, because it is important that we in Congress send the message that the historical truth matters, and that it is never too late to acknowledge that the government did not treat these two officers fairly.”

In early 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt, in announcing Admiral Kimmel's appointment as Commander-in-Chief, U.S. and Pacific Fleets, with promotion to four star Admiral, praised him as “one of the greatest Naval strategists of our time.”

Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Admiral Kimmel was relieved of his

command and reverted back to his permanent rank of two star Rear Admiral. When it appeared that he would not receive orders to other commands, he retired in March 1942. Rear Admiral Kimmel died at Groton, Connecticut, on May 14, 1958.

Admiral Kimmel had three sons, all of whom served in the Navy during World War II. Tom Kimmel commanded four submarines during the war, and later commanded a heavy cruiser before retiring as a Navy Captain in 1965. Ned Kimmel entered the Navy as a Reserve Ensign, and was a Lieutenant Commander when the war ended. Manning Kimmel was commanding officer of the submarine USS Robalo. In July 1944, while patrolling the South China Sea east of the Philippines, the Robalo struck a mine and sank with the loss of all hands.

Tom and Ned Kimmel, and their sons — including Ned's son Manning IV — have struggled for the past 50 years to clear the Admiral's name and have him restored to the rank he held before Pearl Harbor, that of four star Admiral.

“Admiral Kimmel and General Short were publicly vilified and never given a chance to clear their names,” said Spratt. “But thanks to the work of the Kimmel family, and to the declassification of documents since World War II, we have been able to evaluate our history and come to see the whole story.

“Passage of this bill,” said Spratt, “reflects one of our greatest strengths as a nation — our ability to honor truth and learn the lessons from our past, and it does justice to two officers who served their country well.”

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